

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

At the outset, it should be noted that nine claims (one independent) have been canceled, and nine claims (one independent) have been added. The total number of claims and the number of independent claims now pending are the same numbers as in the original filing, so no fee for additional claims is required.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has required restriction to one of seven inventions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121. The Examiner has distinguished the following inventions: claims 1-6 (Group I) drawn to a method of manufacture; claims 7-15 (Group II) drawn to an apparatus for controlling tension; claims 16-24 (Group III) drawn to an apparatus with means for guiding the elongated structure; claims 25-27 (Group IV) drawn to a method for controlling tension with pulling the zipper material through first and second rollers in a direction toward the packaging machine; claims 28 and 29 (Group V) drawn to a method of manufacture with pulling the trailing portion of the second elongated structure through the nip by advancing the joined portion etc.; claims 30-36 (Group VI) drawn to a system comprising interlocked zipper strips; and claims 37-39 (Group VII) drawn to a system comprising interlocked zipper strips and a zipper processing machine comprising a slider insertion device.

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, to prosecute claims 16-

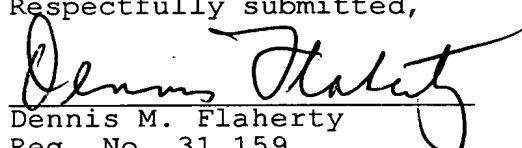
Atty. Docket: ITW-14144

24 of Group III. New claims 40-48 have been added that should be included in elected Group III.

The Applicant hereby requests that elected claims 16-24 and 40-48 be favorably acted upon.

Respectfully submitted,

February 27, 2004
Date


Dennis M. Flaherty
Reg. No. 31,159
Ostrager Chong & Flaherty LLP
825 Third Avenue, 30th Floor
New York, NY 10022-7519
Tel. No.: 212-826-6565

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

February 27, 2004
Date


Dennis M. Flaherty